TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 22, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 17 totaled 19.8 billion ton-miles, up 1.5 percent from the 19.5 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 37 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 707.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended September 17 totaled 448,877, up 1.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 14.9 percent above the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 1.1 percent in the East, but up 3.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, nine of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores increased by 2,755 cars (15.2 percent); loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,399 cars (12.6 percent); but grain was down 2,418 cars (7.2 percent). All of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding holiday week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended September 10 totaled 97,123 trailers and/or containers, up 3.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987. Both weeks included the Labor Day holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 36 weeks of the year was 3,928,300 trailers and/or containers, up 5.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/17/88:

	Loadings in Week ended September 17, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,264	D	2,418	7.2	I	7,397	31.0
Other farm products	3,320	D	684	17.1	I	945	39.8
Metallic ores	20,895	I	2,755	15.2	I	2,414	13.1
Coal	128,302	I	22	0.0	I	7,975	6.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,545	I	1,391	7.7	I	3,933	25.2
Nonmetallic minerals	10,816	-	0	0.0	I	1,290	13.5
Grain mill products	11,112	D	205	1.8	I	1,478	15.3
Food and kindred products	10,919	D	894	7.6	I	1,642	17.7
Primary forest products	10,171	D	949	8.5	I	1,731	20.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,366	D	1,144	13.4	I	1,700	30.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,182	D	474	3.7	I	212	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,106	I	482	1.7	I	3,308	13.3
Petroleum products	5,276	I	462	9.6	I	731	16.1
Stone, clay and glass products	11,416	D	604	5.0	I	1,262	12.4
Coke	5,676	I	580	11.4	I	108	1.9
Metals and products	10,368	I	418	4.2	I	1,388	15.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,470	I	2,399	12.6	I	4,596	27.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,993	D	217	2.1	I	2,122	27.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,379	D	744	23.8	I	393	19.8
All other carloads	88,301	I	5,032	6.0	I	13,719	18.4
Total Cars Loaded	448,877	I	5,208	1.2	I	58,344	14.9
Corresponding week of 1987	443,669						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (37 weeks)	15,621,185	14,860,300	I 5.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
36 weeks ended September 10	688.0	640.3	I 7.5
Week ended September 17	19.8	19.5	I 1.5
37 Weeks cumulative	707.8	659.7	I 7.3

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